

AgCorps AmeriCorps Member Position Description

AgCorps Mission:



To serve Montana communities by providing Ag literacy and environmental stewardship education to create resilient, healthy, and engaged communities under the Big Sky.



Location	302 North Roberts St. Helena, MT 59601
Supervisor Information	Brett Heitshusen, Sustainability Program Manager
Term of Service	Term of Service will be from January to November. Members are expected to serve 40 hours/week. Typical working times are Monday-Friday 8:00AM-4:30PM.

About AmeriCorps:

AmeriCorps is the federal agency for national service and volunteerism. The AmeriCorps mission is to improve lives, strengthen communities, and foster civic engagement through service and volunteering. AmeriCorps continuously tackles the nation's most pressing challenges by getting things done for America.

Purpose:

AgCorps is a state AmeriCorps program administered by the Montana Department of Agriculture. AgCorps aims to improve the capacity of partner organizations to meet their mission, grow collaborations, provide effective programming, and create resilient, healthy, safe, and engaged communities in Montana. This program is also designed to serve rural and underfunded school districts in Montana that require more accessibility to Ag literacy materials.

Location:

The Montana Department of Agriculture is a state department that operates more than 30 programs across Montana. Some of those programs and topics include Adopt-A-Trailhead, Farmer's Market, Beekeeping, Noxious Weeds and Pest Management. The three main divisions of the department are the Agricultural Development Division, the Agricultural Sciences Division, and the Central Services Division. For more information on the department, visit www.agr.mt.gov.

With a population of a little over 33,000, Helena is a beautiful capital city with a small-town feel. Montana has something to offer everyone, whether you are into biking, boating, skiing or just exploring the outdoors. There are countless activities to enjoy right outside your door including the state's oldest farmer's market, tours of the famous mansion district and multiple festivals throughout the year. Helena is surrounded by several mountain ranges including the Big Belts, Elkhorns the Boulders, and numerous rivers and streams including the Blue Ribbon section of the Missouri River.

Service Position Summary:

With the support of the Agricultural Container Recycling Council (ACRC), the Pesticide Container Recycling Program services 15 recycling events and 37 county weed districts. A mobile grinding unit, a generator and granulator set up on a 40ft flatbed trailer, visits each location multiple times per year to grind containers into 1300lb super bags. The bags of regrind are shipped to plastic product companies that manufacture pallets and other non-potable recycled products. The AgCorps member will assist with the collection and grinding of the pesticide containers providing a free recycling service to the agricultural industry and diverting agricultural waste from landfills and burn piles. While at the sites, the member will provide education regarding pesticide container cleanliness standards for recycling, promote other department programs like waste pesticide disposal and groundwater protection, and conduct surveys on the recycling program effectiveness using participant feedback. During the winter/spring, the member will develop promotional material such as event flyers, calendar brochures, and recycling booth informational posters.

The Groundwater Protection Program (GWPP) monitors groundwater for agricultural chemicals at wells located in agricultural settings, in fields and near farms. The GWPP also maintains weather stations at most of our groundwater monitoring locations. Meteorological data, soil moisture, and water table level data are remotely transmitted to their respective data bases and used for drought designation and climate sensitivity models in Montana. The member will visit groundwater monitoring wells assisting with groundwater sample collection and weather station construction, sensor maintenance or replacement, and groundwater protection education to the public. This may also involve assisting high school classrooms with soil lab testing and developing soil moisture/field capacity course material. The groundwater monitoring results provide feedback to pesticide applicators on the environmental impact and risks of pesticide applications in local areas, as well as demonstrate the effective and responsible use of pesticides in the Agricultural Industry.

This position will be on the road about 60% of the time. The other time will be in a typical office environment. Transportation or mileage reimbursement for program activities, per diem, and hotel fees will be provided as funding permits.

Essential Functions and responsibilities:

- Communicate with stakeholders about proper container recycling
- Create educational materials to support and promote the program
- Collect samples for the Pesticide Container Recycling program and groundwater sites
- Education and outreach regarding pesticide container recycling and groundwater protection
- Assist with maintaining the MESONET weather stations
- Assist in high school lab classes related to soil health
- Attendance to mandatory trainings (Orientation, Symposium, mid-service training and end of service training)
- Participation in evaluation and reporting (monthly reporting, bi-weekly timesheet submission and monthly check-in calls)

Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities Required:

- Basic Microsoft skills (Word, Excel, Teams, Publisher)
- Comfortable driving a pickup and pulling a trailer.

- Familiar with environmental sample collection is a plus
- Record keeping
- Valid driver's license
- comfortable with long amounts of time on the road and being outdoors in variable weather
- able to work with different types of PPE (gloves, Tyvek suits, hearing protection)
- ability to bend, crouch, dig, and climb on and off trailers and ladders.
- Adhere to program policies and procedures
- Demonstrate the ability to balance service activities
- Demonstrate professional behavior and use of appropriate language
- Demonstrate the ability to be flexible and serve cooperatively
- Demonstrate the ability to communicate effectively and resolve conflicts

AmeriCorps Program Benefits:

- Members receive a living allowance to cover basic expenses while serving
- Upon successful completion of service, members receive an education award
- While serving, members may qualify for student loan forbearance
- A monthly housing stipend if eligible (paying rent or mortgage while serving)
- Healthcare and Childcare assistance are available
- Other benefits include being part of an incredible community, being surrounded by professionals in multiple fields, and job shadowing opportunities
- AmeriCorps alumni benefits include access to nationwide alumni network, many career resources, access to AmeriCorps alumni emails and updates

AmeriCorps Service minimum Requirements:

- Must be 18+ at the beginning of service
- High school graduate, GED recipient, working towards obtaining a high school diploma / GED
- Be a citizen, national, or lawful permanent resident alien
- Satisfy the National Service Criminal History Check eligibility criteria

For more information, please Contact:

- Amanda Coyle: AgCorps Program Coordinator
- (406) 444-7819
- Amanda.Coyle@mt.gov

To Apply

Visit <https://my.americorps.gov>

* All positions are contingent upon a successful background check and CNCS grant funding

* Reasonable accommodations can be made for interviews and if selected, service activities

The Montana AgCorps Program, under the Montana Department of Agriculture, does not discriminate based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, or any other discrimination not based on merit or qualifications.